

THE CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION OF VICTORIA

MINUTES AND REPORT

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MEETING OF COUNCIL

held at 225 Swanston Street, Melbourne on Monday, 17th May 1982 commencing 7 p.m.

1. PRESENT:

Mr. J. N. Black
Mr. A. Gill
Mr. E. J. Long
Mr. B. H. Macintosh
Mr. J. Mitchell
Mr. O. J. Slattery
Mr. B. Greer

Chairman

Employment Co-operative
Development Officer

Mr. W. W. Rawlinson

Executive Officer

2. MINUTES:

Minutes of the meeting held 19th April 1982, having been circulated, were confirmed and adopted as a correct record of that meeting.

3. MATTERS ARISING:

The meeting of the Australian Society Accountants Discussion Group associated with Wholesalers was held on 29th April and was successful from an accountant's needs but less relevant to Co-operative development.

4. CORRESPONDENCE:

4.i Report of Registrar for 1979

Council noted the lateness of the report and directed

Advice be sent to the Registrar

(i) requesting the Federation be included on the mailing list for receipt of future Reports;

(ii) acknowledging the standard of information given but seeking improvement by inclusion of surplus achieved and distribution by rebate and dividend related to each type of Co-operative distinguishing between the service and commercial type.

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5. FINANCIAL

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The statement of Income and Expenditure covering the period 1.7.81 to 30.4.82, together with an estimated Balance Sheet of the Federation's financial affairs as at 30th April 1982, was submitted to the meeting. The statement dissected income and expenditure of the Community Employment Co-operatives Development Programme and other Federation income and expenditure.

After due discussion the financial statement was received and adopted.

Council recorded its acknowledgement of the generous contribution of time and cost by the President to the fulfilment of his Federation responsibilities and directed

that \$500 be provided from current year's travel expense' as partial re-imbursement of the President's travel costs in this financial year.

5.ii

Council considered propositions for the acquisition of a photocopying machine but directed

the proposal be deferred for one month.

5.iii

Council considered a draft budget for the financial year commencing 1.7.82. In view of possible developments in the contractual relationships between the Co-operative Federation of Victoria and the Co-operative Federation of Australia Council directed that

an alternative budget be prepared and circulated for consideration covering an independent operation of the Federation.

6.

MEETING WITH MINISTERS

The Chairman reported that Council deputations had met with

The Minister administering the Co-operation Act

The Minister of Employment and Training

The brief submitted to the former and the list of submissions presented to the latter Minister were circulated for information of Councillors.

The meetings were considered valuable as briefing new Ministers on the role of the Federation related to their respective Departments.

7.

REGIONAL MEETINGS

The Chairman reported on successful Regional meetings held at Morwell and Camperdown at which a total of 25 Co-operatives had been represented.

The next meeting is scheduled for Bendigo on 22nd June for which invitations have been issued.

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8. ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Mr. Cathie, Minister administering the Co-operation Act has agreed to open the Conference

Senator Siddons has requested a meeting for 31st May to discuss his part in the proceedings

John Carty, Manager, Bendigo Trading Co-operative will present a paper on case study of a successful developing new consumer Co-operative

Council noted constitutional requirements for deadlines for nominations and notices for the Annual General Meeting.

9. LEGISLATION

9.i A Management guidelines brochure on end of year accounts, auditors and annual general meetings and returns to Registrar, as required by the Co-operation Act 1981, was tabled. Copies will be issued to each Co-operative Society member of the Federation.

9.ii The Registrar has indicated acceptance of most provisions of the draft Rules for the Co-operative Federation. The proposal for a board or representative Directors is not acceptable.

9.iii In response to a Federation request for a ruling on a proposal for Co-operatives to distribute surplus in the form of bonus shares or debentures the Registrar was non-committal.

A legal opinion be obtained by the Federation and the proposal be re-considered thereafter.

9.iv Council noted the request from the Gippsland Regional meeting for amendment of the Co-operation Act to allow issue of bonus shares from asset revaluation reserves.

10. REPORTS

Community Employment Co-operatives Development Programme

Copies of the June 1982 issue of Co-operative Review were tabled.

Mr. Gill reported on a meeting of representatives of all the funded employment Co-operatives with the Asst. Director, of Ministry of Employment and Training. A further meeting of the group is planned for Maryborough on 6th June 1982.

Mr. Greer reported he and the Department's Co-ordinator of Employment Co-operatives had met with the Council of the Small Business Development Bureau.

It is planned that future issues of Co-operative Review will be the responsibility of the Programme's Education Team. Appointments to this team, under control of the Vocational Orientation Centre, have not yet been finalised.

10.i.i

Co-operative Federation of Australia

Mr. Slattery reported that the planned progress in re-structuring the national body has not yet been achieved. Until further positive progress can be obtained and the report on Stage 2 of the Co-operative Bank project - now overdue - is also obtained a meeting of the Steering Committee cannot be held.

10.i.iii

Co-operative Societies Advisory Council

Mr. Long reported that advice from the Registrar on the constitution of the Advisory Council to conform to the requirements of the Co-operation Act 1981 is still awaited.

10.i.iv

Executive Officer

Mr. Rawlinson reported on meetings held with a management consultant on content of Dairy Co-operative Directors Education Programme, with the Assistant Director, Ministry of Employment and Training, with representatives from Kielor City Council, with Groups from St. Kilda and another group wishing to establish Co-operatives. He has drafted a set of Articles for the proposed re-structured Co-operative Federation of Australia and engaged in extensive discussions on Co-operative Taxation with the Secretary of a major interstate Co-operative.

11.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Gill proposed an alternate be provided for himself as Employment Co-operatives representative on the Council. Council accepted the need for such support for Mr. Gill and directed

a study of the Federation Rules be made to enable proposals on ways and means of meeting the proposal to be submitted for future consideration.

12.

NEXT MEETING

Monday, 21st June 1982 at 7 p.m. was agreed as the date for the next meeting.

13.

CLOSURE

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.45 p.m.

per Mr. G. 21.6.82.

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